GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1726
ANSWERED ON:03.03.2003
LINKING OF HIMALAYAN RIVERS WITH PENINSULAR RIVERS
BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH;DADICHILUKA VEERA GOURI SANKARA RAO;MALYALA RAJAIAH

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have set up any group to study the feasibility of linking of Himalayan rivers with peninsular rivers;

(b) if so, by when this group was set up alongwith members and when it is likely to submit its report; and

(c) the estimated expenditure likely to be incurred and by when the work is likely to commence?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SMT. BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY)

(a) & (b): The Union Government has set-up a Task Force on December 13,2002 with a view to bringing about a consensus among the States and provide guidance on norms of appraisal of individual projects and modalities for project funding, etc., for implementing the interlinking of rivers.

The composition of the Task Force on 24.2.2003 is as under:-

1. Shri Suresh P. Prabhu, Member of Parliament (LS) Chairman

2. Shri C.C. Patel, Retd. Secretary, Ministry of Water Resources Vice-Chairman

3. Shri Deepak Das Gupta, Retd. IAS Officer Full-Time Member

4. Shri K.V. Kamath, MD & CEO, ICICI Bank, Member

5. Shri R.K. Pachauri, Director General, Tata Energy Research Institute, Member New Delhi

6. Shri Piyush Goyal, Chartered Accountant, Mumbai Member

7 Shri K.Kasturirangan, Chairman, ISRO, New Delhi Member

8. Shri G.C. Sahu, Retd. Engineer-in-Chief, Government of Orissa Member

9. Dr. C.D. Thatte, Retd. Secretary, Ministry of Water Resources Member-Secretary

The Task Force is to prepare Action Plan by 30th April, 2003 giving the outline of the time schedules for the completion of the feasibility studies, detailed project reports, estimated cost, implementation schedule, concrete benefits and advantages of the project etc. It will suggest alternative option for funding and execution of the project as also the suggested methods for cost recovery by July, 2003.

(c): As per the present tentative estimate, the cost of implementation of identified inter-basin water transfer link schemes, both in Peninsular and Himalayan Component at 2002price level is Rs.5,60,000 crore. The Task Force is working to suggest and guide the task of achieving the goal of inter-linking of rivers by the end of 2016.